

REMARKS

Noting the Office Action of March 15, 2006 wherein restriction has been required, Applicant hereby elects Group I (claims 1-8) for prosecution in the above-identified application. Claims 9-15 have been cancelled.

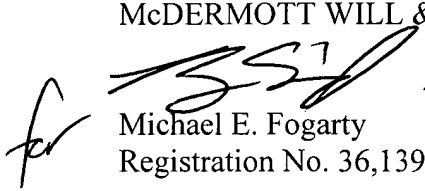
As claims 1-8 were contained in the originally issued patent (i.e., USP No. 6,455,348) forming the basis of this reissue application, and no errors are contained in claims 1-8, it is respectfully submitted that this reissue application with respect to claims 1-8 is now in condition for allowance. A divisional reissue application is being filed concurrently with this response so as to pursue claims 9-15 which were subject to the restriction requirement and not elected for prosecution in the instant reissue application.

Moreover, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.177(c) it is respectfully requested that the instant reissue application not be dismissed, but have the further action herein suspended until all issues are resolved in the divisional reissue application, at which time the instant reissue application and the divisional reissue application may be merged together, as the instant reissue application containing only claims 1-8 cannot be passed to issue as there would not be any error corrected by the instant reissue application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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